

**Department: Department of Workforce Education**  
**Division: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services**

**Proposed Amendments: Arkansas Rehabilitation Services Policy and Procedure Manual changes to Section V. Economic Need/Comparable Benefits and VI. Services**

**Effective Date: October 18, 2004**

**Description:** Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) has initiated changes in the verification process to determine the financial need of potential customers and to clarify Federal law

**Summary:**

In 1923, State Law established Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (formerly known as the Department of Rehabilitation Services). The Act “ accepted the provisions of the Federal Law mandating vocational rehabilitation services to provide for the promotion of vocational rehabilitation of persons, disabled in industry or otherwise and their return to civil employment.” The federal Rehabilitation Act reauthorization occurs every 5 years and the vocational rehabilitation program has changed drastically over the years. Arkansas Rehabilitation Services has been required to make numerous changes in the Arkansas Rehabilitation Service Policy and Procedure Manual, since the 1998 Rehabilitation Act Amendments, as part of the Workforce Investment Act.

Arkansas Rehabilitation Services (ARS) promulgation history:

<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>Title</b>
June 1998	ARS Operating Procedures Manual
March 2000	ARS Policy Manual
July 2001	ARS Policy and Procedures Manual
March 2002	Additions to the ARS Policy and Procedures Manual
March 2002	Client Services Handbook
October 2002	ARS adopted a new Policy and Procedure Manual based on the Rehabilitation Act being blended into the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the significant changes in this federal law.

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